

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 13 July 2009 at 6 pm at The Town Hall, Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed

PRESENT:

Councillors:	F Simpson (Town Mayor)	I Hunter
	J Beresford	M McNeely
	H Bettison	V Pauline
	A Bowlas	J Robertson
	B Douglas	C Routledge
	G Hill	J Smith
	P Herdman	

IN ATTENDANCE:

J Hutchinson (Sheriff)

S Finch, Town Clerk

Dave Garrick and Keith Smith, Northumbria Police

Lyn Dixon, Executive Nurse for NHS North of Tyne

Dr Jeremy Rushmer, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Gillian Simmons, Locality Officer, Northumberland County Council

Tracy Jennings and Joanne Luther, Northumberland County Council

2 members of the public

OPEN SESSION

The Town Mayor welcomed those present.

Gillian Simmons referred to the County Council's commitment to strengthen the role of local councils, explained the role of the Localities Team and described how the proposed Community Forums would relate to local councils.

It was noted that collaborative working of the Town Partnership, Berwick Community Trust and the Town Council could evolve into a Community Forum for Berwick.

It was confirmed that if Berwick and Norham and Islandshires each established their own Community Forum, the budget available for hosting each Community Forum would need to be shared, as it had originally been intended that the two areas would support one Forum.

Members asked that the Community Forum should be an item on the September Council Meeting agenda. The Chairman thanked Gillian for her contribution and up-date.

Acting Inspector Dave Garrick and Sergeant Keith Smith explained the purpose of PACT sessions (Police and Communities Together), which were intended to give both residents and councillors the opportunity to identify priorities for policing.

At present the main priorities for Berwick Sector were boy racers, drink-related anti-social behaviour, and parking. Extra resources had been made available during the main holiday season when crime and disorder rise.

It was confirmed that police were now, as a result of an APCO/Government directive, not able to police events other than Remembrance Day Ceremonies. The intention was that private companies should be used for these duties.

Members were urged to make use of the Contact Management Unit to help build up knowledge of local problems and issues. They were also asked to consider what they felt should be policing priorities for Berwick Tweedmouth and Spittal.

CO17/09 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Stewart and Waterhouse.

CO18/09 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council held on 23 June 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

CO19/09 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Hunter declared a personal and prejudicial interest, and Councillor Robertson a personal interest, in Item 6 (Berwick's Future Action Plan) and Item 7 (Buchanan Traffic Management Report). Councillor Herdman declared a personal

interest in Item 4 (Northumbria Healthcare Consultation). Councillor Bettison declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5 (Spittal Play Park Paddling Pool).

CO20/09

4. NORTHUMBRIA HEALTHCARE CONSULTATION

The Chairman welcomed Lyn Dixon and Jeremy Rushmer who outlined the main proposals for expenditure over ten years which would provide a new specialist emergency care hospital near the Moor Farm roundabout off the A1, improvements to facilities in Wansbeck and North Tyneside, and the rebuilding of existing facilities in Haltwhistle and Berwick.

Members expressed the view that the proposed location for the new emergency care hospital would disadvantage Berwick because of the travelling distances involved, the traffic issues which can arise at Moor Farm roundabout and with the constraints imposed by a single carriageway A1. There were also concerns that the ambulance service was not adequate to meet the demand for the distances involved.

Dr Rushmer said there would be a net benefit in the new facility, because the service and facilities at the new hospital would be improved.

Members concluded that the proposed location of the new hospital would not bring benefit to people in Berwick-upon-Tweed and that the site should be reviewed when considering the results of the current consultation.

CO21/09

5. SPITTAL PLAY PARK (PADDLING POOL)

The Town Mayor welcomed Tracy Jennings and Joanne Luther, Northumberland County Council, who explained that the proposal to develop the former Spittal Paddling Pool into a Spittal Splash Park had been identified as a possible Playbuilder project.

In order to attract maximum funding it would be designed to appeal to a wide range of age groups, from 2 to 18.

The funding timescale required that detailed design and costings should be in place by December.

RESOLVED:

- (i) The project should be taken forward and would be fully supported by Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council**
- (ii) Councillor Beresford to represent the Town Council on the Working Group which would be led by Spittal Improvement Trust**
- (iii) The Town Council to work with partners to identify and apply for funding to help deliver the project.**

CO22/09

6. BERWICK'S FUTURE ACTION PLAN

The Chairman reported that members had discussed the Berwick's Future Action Plan at an informal meeting on 15 June. The views which had been raised had been circulated with the agenda, and members were invited to decide whether they wished these views to be sent to the Berwick's Future Steering Group.

RESOLVED: The points set out in Attachment B, and circulated to members, to be forwarded to Berwick's Future Steering Group.

Councillor Hunter, having expressed a prejudicial interest in this item, left the room during its consideration.

CO23/09

7. BUCHANAN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Chairman reported that members had discussed the Buchanan Traffic Management Report at an informal meeting on 22 June. The views which had been raised had been circulated with the agenda, and members were invited to decide whether they wished these views to be sent to the Berwick's Future Steering Group.

Members agreed subject to bullet points 1, 2, 6, 10, 11 and 12 being highlighted as the Council's priorities.

RESOLVED: The points set out in Attachment C, and circulated to members, to be forwarded to Berwick's Future Steering Group, with priorities highlighted.

Councillor Hunter, having expressed a prejudicial interest in this item, left the

room during its consideration.

CO24/09

8. CIVIC EVENTS

The Clerk reported that there had been no progress in obtaining assistance from the County Council in organising the Remembrance Day ceremony. It had, however, been confirmed that the County Council, which had a statutory responsibility to administer the Freedom Admissions within the town, was hoping to delegate this responsibility to the Town Council.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To make a further request to the County Council to provide officer support for the organisation of the Remembrance Day ceremonies.**
- (ii) To approach the former Borough Secretary to establish whether he would be prepared to undertake the organisation for an agreed fee.**
- (iii) The Clerk to discuss with the County Council whether, in recognition of the Town Council taking on the County Council's duties of administering Freedom Admissions, a special case could be made for the County Council providing some support to the Town Council in arranging the Remembrance Day ceremonies.**

CO25/09

9. COUNCIL COLUMN IN BERWICK ADVERTISER

The Clerk reported that the Berwick Advertiser had invited the Council to provide a monthly column in which Councillors could raise issues and invite comment from residents. It was hoped that a councillor representing each of Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal could provide material four times annually.

Members welcomed the opportunity to improve communication with the community.

RESOLVED: Councillors Bettison, Hill and Robertson to participate in a scheme to provide material to the Berwick Advertiser. Berwick.

CO26/09

10. AREA PARTNERSHIPS – PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

A letter from the Chairman of Longhirst Parish Council expressing concern about Parish Council representation on the Area Partnership had been circulated.

Members agreed that Parish Councils would be represented through their Community Forum as well as independently and this provided a sufficient platform for local councils.

CO27/09

11. FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee meetings on 6 April and 1 June 2009.

CO28/09

12. EVENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Events Committee meetings held on 6 April and 1 June 2009.

CO29/09

13. ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee meetings held on 18 February, 7 April and 2 June 2009.

CO30/09

14. PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: To adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 23 June 2009.

CO31/09

15. DELEGATION OF URGENT DECISIONS

RESOLVED: Where matters require urgent attention outside the meeting schedule, to delegate authority to make decisions to the Clerk in discussion with two of: the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and the Chairman of one Standing Committee.

ITEMS TO NOTE

CO32/09

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 17 March, 21 April and 19 May 2009.

CO33/08

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 14 September 2009 at 6 pm in The William Elder Building.